



**MICHELLE LANDRY MP**  
Federal Member for Capricornia

**WORKING HARD  
FOR CAPRICORNIA**

## **Media Statement**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 6AM THURSDAY**

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### **Landry achieves biggest political win for the good of Rockhampton**

**Turnbull-Joyce government willingly to back Rookwood up to \$130 million**

**\$1billion business potential, 2,100 future jobs**

Tenacious Federal MP Michelle Landry will see the biggest feat of her political career pay off today with a Federal Government commitment to back the construction of Rookwood Weir near Rockhampton.

The project – set to create up to 2,100 new jobs and spark a \$1billion expansion of local agriculture – will be backed by the Turnbull-Joyce Government to the tune of up to \$130 million.

The Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, and Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, will make the ground breaking announcement, just outside the city this morning.

The Turnbull-Joyce government will fund up to \$130 million towards the cost of the \$260 million project (or 50%) of Rookwood Weir, providing that the State government completes a business case and finalises environmental approvals – a result Ms Landry has been fighting for.

"This is by far the most valuable contribution I could make in such a short time in office for our community, because if it goes ahead it will create jobs and set the Rockhampton region up for decades to come," Ms Landry said.

"Rookwood has been talked about for nearly two decades. This is a real commitment that only the Turnbull-Joyce government had the guts to commit to. It offers certainty and a real plan and a long term jobs agenda to the Rockhampton region which has been suppressed by a lack of bold action for a long time.

"I have fought long and hard for this and I have chewed the ears of a lot of Ministers, including the PM, to deliver for the people of Rockhampton."

#### **Ms Landry has asked the Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister to:**

- Fund a final state government business case that is required for Rookwood at a cost of \$2 million.
- And to commit to fund up to \$130 million from the Commonwealth towards the cost of building Rookwood Weir, providing that the State government completes a business case and finalises environmental approvals.

The nation's top bosses are expected to confirm this with an announcement later this morning (Thursday).

Ms Landry has been lobbying hard for Rookwood since she was elected two and a half years ago as the Federal Member for Capricornia. In that time she:

- Successfully lobbied to have Rookwood placed on the green and white papers on the future development of Northern Australia and the future competitiveness of Australian agriculture.
- Lobbied to have CQU Vice-Chancellor Scott Bowman appointed to the Prime Minister's taskforce on Northern Australia.
- And earlier this year, Ms Landry took the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on flight over the Rookwood site to further push for Commonwealth funding.

**Ms Landry said studies show:**

- Rookwood weir will enable an additional \$1 billion in agricultural production in the region – doubling the catchment's current production.
- The water will create in excess of 2,100 new full-time long term jobs in the agriculture sector.
- The economic multiplier for agricultural production in the region is three-fold.
- Growing Central Queensland's modelling indicates that the private investment in agricultural development will be \$4 for every \$1 government invests in construction.

Ms Landry - the only woman MP to sit with the Nationals Party in the House of Representatives – says she put her head on the line in Canberra to fight for Rookwood.

"This has been a long hard fight. It hasn't been easy. But Rookwood stacked up. Rookwood is for Rocky and I was never going to stop the fight for it."

She said she hoped the state government and private proponents would now have the confidence to join the federal government to complete the circle needed to construct the weir.

**Decision follows \$1billion Singapore deal:**

It's been a significant few weeks for Ms Landry. The Rookwood achievement follows an announcement earlier this month that the Turnbull-Joyce Government had secured a deal that will see Singapore defence spend up to \$1 billion in Capricornia – connected to Shoalwater Bay military training ground.

The deal will double the number of Singapore troops visiting Rockhampton and lead to one of the biggest jobs and retail spending boosts in defence history.

"Job security and growth is a big priority for the Turnbull-Joyce government and we are very much focused on helping to create certainty in the future of this region," Ms Landry said.

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